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# On the automorphism group of the first Weyl algebra

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## Abstract

Let  $A_1 := \mathbb{k}[t, \partial]$  be the first algebra over a field  $\mathbb{k}$  of characteristic zero. One can associate to each right ideal  $I$  of  $A_1$  its Stafford subgroup, which is a subgroup of  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1)$ , the automorphism group of the ring  $A_1$ . In this article we show that each Stafford subgroup is equal to its normalizer. For that, we study when the Stafford subgroup of a right ideal of  $A_1$  contains a given Stafford subgroup.

## Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{k}$  be a commutative field of characteristic zero. We note  $A_1$  the first Weyl algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$  *i.e.* :

$$A_1 := A_1(\mathbb{k}) = \mathbb{k}[t, \partial]$$

where  $\partial, t$  are related by  $\partial t - t\partial = 1$ .

**Definition 1** For a right ideal  $I$  of  $A_1$ , the Stafford subgroup associated to  $I$  is :

$$H(I) := \{\sigma \in \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1) : \sigma(I) \simeq I\}$$

(where the symbol “ $\simeq$ ” means “ $\sigma(I)$  is isomorphic to  $I$  as a right- $A_1$ -module”).

By [5], it is known that each subgroup  $H(I)$  is isomorphic to an automorphism group  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(\mathcal{D}(X))$ , where  $\mathcal{D}(X)$  is the  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra of differential operators over an algebraic affine curve  $X$ .

A natural question is :

“are the Stafford subgroups normal in  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1)$ ” ?

The answer is no.

Stafford showed that if  $X_2$  is the famous algebraic plane curve defined by the equation :

$$x^2 = y^3$$

and if  $I_2$  is the right ideal of  $A_1$  :

$$I_2 := \{d \in A_1 : d(\mathbb{k}[t]) \subseteq \mathbb{k}[t^2, t^3]\}$$

then the subgroup  $H(I_2)$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(\mathcal{D}(X_2))$  and is equal to its own normalizer in  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1)$ .

We will show in this paper that the subgroup  $H(I)$  is equal to its own normalizer for all right ideal  $I$  of  $A_1$ .

We begin by giving some definitions and by fixing some notations that will be used in this paper.

## 1 Definitions and some properties

The ring  $A_1$  contains the subrings  $R := \mathbb{k}[t]$  and  $S := \mathbb{k}[\partial]$ . It is well known that  $A_1$  is a two-sided noetherian integral domain. Since the characteristic of  $\mathbb{k}$  is zero,  $A_1$  is also hereditary (cf [4]) i.e. every non zero right ideal of  $A_1$  is a projective right- $A_1$ -module.

The ring  $A_1$  has a quotient division ring, denoted by  $Q_1$ . For any finitely generated right-submodule  $M$  of  $Q_1$ , the dual  $M^*$ , as a left- $A_1$ -module will be identified with the set  $\{u \in Q_1 : uM \subseteq A_1\}$ , and  $\text{End}_{A_1}(M)$  with the set  $\{d \in Q_1 : dM \subseteq M\}$  (cf [5]).

The division ring  $Q_1$  contains the subrings  $D := \mathbb{k}(t)[\partial]$  and  $E := \mathbb{k}(\partial)[t]$ . The elements of  $D$  are  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear endomorphisms of  $\mathbb{k}(t)$ . More precisely, if  $d := a_n \partial^n + \dots + a_1 \partial + a_0$  for some  $a_i \in \mathbb{k}(t)$  and if  $h \in \mathbb{k}(t)$ , then :

$$d(h) := a_n h^{(n)} + \dots + a_1 h^{(1)} + a_0 h ,$$

where  $h^{(i)}$  denotes the  $i$ -th derivative of  $h$  and  $a_i h^{(i)}$  is a product in  $\mathbb{k}(t)$ . We note that:

$$\forall d, d' \in \mathbb{k}(t)[\partial], \forall h \in \mathbb{k}(t), (dd')(h) = d(d'(h)) .$$

For  $V$  and  $W$  two vector subspaces of  $\mathbb{k}(t)$ , we set :

$$\mathcal{D}(V, W) := \{d \in \mathbb{k}(t)[\partial] : d(V) \subseteq W\} .$$

Notice that  $\mathcal{D}(R, V)$  is a right  $A_1$ -submodule of  $Q_1$  and  $\mathcal{D}(V, R)$  is a left  $A_1$ -submodule of  $Q_1$ . If moreover  $V \subseteq R$ , then  $\mathcal{D}(R, V)$  is a right ideal of  $A_1$ . When  $V = R$ , one has  $\mathcal{D}(R, R) = A_1$ .

If  $I$  is a right ideal of  $A_1$ , we set :

$$I \star 1 := \{d(1) : d \in I\} .$$

It is clear  $I \star 1$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector subspace of  $\mathbb{k}[t]$  and that :

$$I \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R, I \star 1) .$$

The inclusions  $A_1 \subset k(\partial)[t]$  and  $A_1 \subset k(t)[\partial]$  show that, at least, two notions of degree can be defined on  $A_1$  : the degree in “ $t$ ” or  $t$ -degree and the degree in “ $\partial$ ” or  $\partial$ -degree. Naturally, those degree notions extend to  $Q_1$ . We will note them, respectively,  $\deg_t$  and  $\deg_\partial$ .

## 2 Primary decomposable subspaces

In order to describe the right ideals of  $A_1$ , it is convenient to use the notion of *primary decomposable subspaces* of  $\mathbb{k}[t]$ .

Recall that  $\mathbb{k}$  is not necessarily algebraically closed.

Let  $b, h \in R = \mathbb{k}[t]$  and  $V$  a  $k$ -subspace of  $R$ . We set:

$$\mathcal{O}(b) := \{a \in R : a' \in bR\} ,$$

where  $a'$  denotes the formal derivative of  $a$ .

*E.g.* : one has  $\mathcal{O}(t^{n-1}) = \mathbb{k} + t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$ .

We set also :

$$S(V) := \{a \in R : aV \subseteq V\} \text{ and } \mathcal{C}(R, V) := \{a \in R : aR \subseteq V\} .$$

Clearly  $\mathcal{O}(b)$  and  $S(V)$  are  $\mathbb{k}$ -subalgebras of  $R$ . If  $b \neq 0$ , the Krull dimension of  $\mathcal{O}(b)$  is  $\dim_{\mathbb{k}}(\mathcal{O}(b)) = 1$ .

The set  $\mathcal{C}(R, V)$  is an ideal of  $R$  contained in both  $S(V)$  and  $V$ . Moreover, if  $\mathcal{O}(b) \subseteq S(V)$  then  $b^2 R \subseteq V$  i.e.  $b^2 \in \mathcal{C}(R, V)$ .

**Definition 2** *A non-zero  $k$ -vector subspace  $V$  of  $k[t]$  is said to be primary decomposable (p.d. for short) if  $S(V)$  contains a  $k$ -subalgebra  $\mathcal{O}(b)$ , with  $b \neq 0$ . In this case  $\mathcal{C}(R, V)$  is a non zero ideal of  $R$ . A p.d. subspace  $V$  of  $k[t]$  is said irreducible (p.d.i.) if  $V$  is not contained in a proper ideal of  $k[t]$ .*

In [1], R.C. Cannings and M.P. Holland have shown that for p.d.  $V$  of  $R$ , there is the equality

$$\mathcal{D}(V, V) = \text{End}_{A_1}(\mathcal{D}(R, V)) .$$

It is shown in [2] that for any non zero right ideal  $I$  of  $A_1$ , there exists  $x \in Q_1$  and  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}_k(A_1)$  such that :

$$x\sigma(I) = \mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n]) ,$$

where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{k}[X_n] := k + t^n k[t]$  is the ring of regular functions on an affine algebraic affine curve  $X_n$ .

We will show that the inclusion :

$$H(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])) \subseteq H(\mathcal{D}(R, V))$$

where  $V$  is a proper p.d.i. subspace of  $R$ , implies :

$$\mathbb{k}[X_n] = V .$$

That result will lead us to the conclusion that the subgroup  $H(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n]))$  is equal to its own normalizer in  $\text{Aut}_k(A_1)$ .

### 3 The characteristic elements of a right ideal

The first step in the classification of right ideals of the first Weyl algebra  $A_1$  is the following :

**Theorem 3.1** (Stafford [5, lemma 4.2]) *If  $I$  is a non-zero right ideal of  $A_1$ , then there exist  $e, e' \in Q_1$  such that:*

- (i)  $eI \subseteq A_1$  and  $eI \cap k[t] \neq \{0\}$  ;
- (ii)  $e'I \subseteq A_1$  and  $e'I \cap k[\partial] \neq \{0\}$  .

With (i) we see that any non-zero right ideal  $I$  of  $A_1$  is isomorphic to another ideal  $I'$  such that  $I' \cap k[t] \neq \{0\}$ .

*Remark:* the element  $e$  (resp.  $e'$ ) of the theorem is a minimal  $\partial$ -degree element of  $I^*$  (resp. a minimal  $t$ -degree element of  $I^*$ ).

**Corollary 3.2** *There exists an unique element (modulo the multiplicative group  $\mathbb{k}^*$ )  $f \in I$  such that the full set of elements of  $I$  with minimum  $t$ -degree be exactly :*

$$f\mathbb{k}[\partial] .$$

*In the same way, there exists an unique element (modulo the multiplicative group  $\mathbb{k}^*$ )  $e^* \in I^*$  such that the full set of elements of  $I^*$  with minimum  $t$ -degree be exactly :*

$$\mathbb{k}[\partial]e^* .$$

*Proof :* For example, for  $f$  : let  $e' \in I^*$  such that  $e'I \cap \mathbb{k}[\partial] \neq \{0\}$ . Let  $s \in \mathbb{k}[\partial]$  such that  $e'I \cap \mathbb{k}[\partial] = s\mathbb{k}[\partial]$ . We can take :  $f := e'^{-1}s$ . *q.e.d.*

**Definition 3** *The elements  $e^* \in I^*$  and  $f \in I$  are called the characteristic elements of the ideal  $I$ .*

*If  $V$  is a p.d. subspace and if  $I = \mathcal{D}(R, V)$ , we will also say that  $e^*$  and  $f$  are the characteristic elements of the p.d.i. subspace  $V$ .*

*Remark :* if  $e^*, f$  are the characteristic elements of a right ideal  $I$ , then  $e^*f \in \mathbb{k}[\partial]$  and :

$$e^*I \cap \mathbb{k}[\partial] = e^*f\mathbb{k}[\partial] .$$

*E.g.* : the characteristic elements of  $\mathbb{k}[X_n] = \mathbb{k} + t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$  are :

$$e_n^* := t^{-n}(t\partial) \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{k}[X_n], R) ,$$

$$f_n := (t\partial - 1) \dots (t\partial - (n - 1)) \in \mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])$$

and  $e_n^* f_n = \partial^n$ .

We now recall some important properties of the p.d.i. subspaces  $V$  and of the associated right ideals  $\mathcal{D}(R, V)$ .

**Lemma 3.3** *Let  $I$  be a right ideal of  $A_1$  such that  $I \cap \mathbb{k}[t] \neq \{0\}$ .*

*— If  $V := I \star 1 := \{d(1) : d \in I\}$ , then  $V$  is a p.d. subspace of  $R$  and*

$$I = \mathcal{D}(R, V) .$$

*— For any p.d. subspace  $W$  of  $R$ , one has*

$$\mathcal{D}(R, W) \star 1 = W \text{ and } \mathcal{C}(R, W) = \mathcal{D}(R, W) \cap \mathbb{k}[t] .$$

For a proof cf [1, theorem §3.2].

Henceforth,  $\theta$  will denote the  $\mathbb{k}$ -automorphism of  $A_1$  such that :

$$\theta(\partial) = t \text{ and } \theta(t) = -\partial .$$

According to [1], the above lemma has the following consequence :

**Corollary 3.4** *For any non zero right ideal  $I$  of  $A_1$ ,*

- i) there is a unique  $x \in Q_1$  (modulo the multiplicative group  $\mathbb{k}^*$ ) and a unique p.d.i. subspace  $V$  of  $R$  such that  $xI = \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  ;*
- ii) there is a unique  $y \in Q_1$  (modulo the multiplicative group  $\mathbb{k}^*$ ) and a unique p.d.i. subspace  $W$  of  $R$  such that :  $\theta(yI) = \mathcal{D}(R, W)$ .*

Now let us give some properties which characterize a p.d.i. subspace  $V$  of  $R$ .

**Proposition 3.5** *Let  $V$  be a p.d.i. subspace of  $R$  and  $m := \dim_{\mathbb{k}} R/V$ .*

- i) For any  $0 \neq d \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$ ,  $d(R) \subseteq V$  and  $\deg_t(d) \geq \dim_{\mathbb{k}} R/V$ .*
- ii) If  $0 \neq f \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  has minimal  $t$ -degree, then  $f(R) = V$ .*

iii) Let  $e^*$  and  $f$  be the characteristic elements of  $V$ . As  $e^* \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)^*$  and as  $\mathcal{D}(R, V) \cap \mathbb{k}[t] \neq \{0\}$ , we have  $e^* \in \mathbb{k}(t)[\partial]$ . More over if :

$$f = t^m c_m(\partial) + t^{m-1} c_{m-1}(\partial) + \dots + c_0(\partial)$$

for some  $c_i(\partial) \in \mathbb{k}[\partial]$ , and if

$$e^* = b_m(\partial)t^{-m} + u$$

where  $b_m(\partial) \in \mathbb{k}[\partial]$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{k}(t)[\partial]$  and  $\deg_t(u) < -m$ , then :

$$e^* f = b_m(\partial) c_m(\partial) .$$

Those properties have all been proved in [3, remarques 1,2,3].

*Remarks :*

— Note that the  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space  $R/V$  has finite dimension since  $\{0\} \neq \mathcal{C}(R, V) \subseteq V$ .

— How to calculate  $f$ ? We take any  $f' \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  with minimal  $t$ -degree  $m$ , and we expand  $f'$  as polynomial in  $t$ :

$$f' = t^m a_m(\partial) + t^{m-1} a_{m-1}(\partial) + \dots + a_0(\partial)$$

where  $a_i(\partial) \in \mathbb{k}[\partial]$  for all  $i$ .

If  $p(\partial) := \text{hcf}(a_m(\partial), a_{m-1}(\partial), \dots, a_0(\partial))$  then we get  $f' = fp(\partial)$  (modulo  $\mathbb{k}^*$ ).

## 4 About the automorphisms that stabilizes an ideal

Let  $I$  be a right ideal of  $A_1$  such that  $I \cap \mathbb{k}[t] \neq \{0\}$  or  $I \cap \mathbb{k}[\partial] \neq \{0\}$ . In this paragraph we wish to determine the automorphisms  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1)$  such that  $\sigma(I) = I$ .

We introduce some particular automorphisms of  $A_1$ .

If  $p \in R$  we define  $\sigma := \exp(\text{ad}(p))$  by :

$$\forall d \in A_1, \sigma(d) := d + [d, p] + \frac{1}{2!}[[d, p], p] + \frac{1}{3!}[[[d, p], p], p] + \dots$$

where  $[d, p] := dp - pd$  for all  $d \in A_1$ .



As the application :

$$A_1 \rightarrow A_1, \quad d \mapsto [d, p]$$

is a locally nilpotent derivation,  $\sigma$  is a well defined automorphism of the ring  $A_1$ . Moreover  $\sigma^{-1} = \exp(\text{ad}(-p))$ .

The following theorem is fundamental in this paper.

**Theorem 4.1** *Let  $V$  be a p.d. subspace of  $R$  and  $\sigma := \exp(\text{ad}(p))$  where  $p \in k[t]$ . Then  $\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, V)) = \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  if and only if  $p \in S(V)$ .*

*Proof :*

**Suppose that  $p \in S(V)$ .**

Let  $d \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$ .

Clearly  $dp$  and  $pd$  are both in  $\mathcal{D}(R, V)$ , so  $[d, p] \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$ , and this implies the first inclusion :  $\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, V)) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R, V)$ . In the same way, since  $-p \in S(V)$  we get the second inclusion  $\sigma^{-1}(\mathcal{D}(R, V)) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  and then the equality  $\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, V)) = \mathcal{D}(R, V)$ .

**Now suppose that  $\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, V)) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R, V)$ .**

Let us take an element  $f \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$ .

In the formal power series ring  $\mathbb{k}[[T]]$ , let

$$\log(1 + T) := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} T^k .$$

In the ring  $\mathbb{k}[[T]]$ , there is the equality :

$$\log(1 + (e^T - 1)) = T .$$

If we specialize in  $T = \text{ad}p$ , we get :

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} (\sigma - \text{Id}_{A_1})^k(f) = [f, p]$$

(the left hand side sum is finite because  $f \in A_1$  and  $p \in R$ ).

Now, all the terms  $f, \sigma(f), \sigma^2(f), \dots, \sigma^n(f), \dots$  belong to  $\mathcal{D}(R, V)$ , so do the terms :

$$(\sigma - \text{Id}_{A_1})^k(f)$$

( $k \geq 1$ ). Therefore,  $[f, p] \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  and we have :

$$\begin{aligned} [f, p](1) &= f(p) - pf(1) \in V \\ \implies pf(1) &\in V . \end{aligned}$$

But we have :

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \mathcal{D}(R, V) \star 1 \\ &= \{f(1) : f \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)\} \end{aligned}$$

so  $pV \subseteq V$  i.e.  $p \in S(V)$ .

*q.e.d.*

A similar result holds with  $\partial$  instead of  $t$  :

**Corollary 4.2** *Let  $I$  be a right ideal of  $A_1$  such that  $I \cap \mathbb{k}[\partial] \neq \{0\}$ . Let  $W$  be the p.d. subspace of  $R$  such that  $\theta(I) = \mathcal{D}(R, W)$ . Let  $q(\partial) \in \mathbb{k}[\partial]$  and  $\tau := \exp(\text{ad}(q(\partial)))$ .*

*Then:*

$$\tau(I) = I \iff \theta(q(\partial)) \in S(W) .$$

## 5 The Stafford subgroups

Recall that if  $I$  is a right ideal of  $A_1$  the Stafford subgroup of  $I$  is noted  $H(I)$ . In the definition, the notion of isomorphism of right  $A_1$ -modules appears. Now, as the ring  $A_1$  is hereditary, if  $I, J$  are isomorphic right ideals of  $A_1$ , then there exists  $x \in Q_1$  such that  $xI = J$ . So, if  $I$  is a right ideal of  $A_1$ , then we have :

- i)  $\forall \sigma \in \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1), H(\sigma(I)) = \sigma H(I) \sigma^{-1}$  ;
- ii)  $\forall 0 \neq z \in Q_1, H(zI) = H(I)$ .

We will simply note  $H(V) := H(\mathcal{D}(R, V))$  for any p.d. subspace  $V$  of  $R$ .

Following the above remark, a Stafford subgroup of  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1)$  is of the form  $H(V)$  for some p.d.i. subspace of  $R$ .

**Proposition 5.1** *Let  $V$  and  $W$  be two p.d.i. subspaces of  $R$ .*

*If  $H(V) \subseteq H(W)$  then :*

- i)  $S(V) \subseteq S(W)$  and ii)  $\mathcal{C}(R, V) \subseteq \mathcal{C}(R, W)$  .

*Proof :*

*i) : Let  $p \in S(V)$ . By the theorem 4.1,  $\sigma := \exp(\text{ad}(p)) \in H(V)$ , thus  $\sigma \in H(W)$ . So there exists  $0 \neq a \in Q_1$  such that  $\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, W)) = a\mathcal{D}(R, W)$ . So  $a\mathcal{D}(R, W) \subseteq A_1$ . In particular,  $a \in \mathbb{k}(t)[\partial]$ . We have also :*

$$\deg_{\partial} a \leq \deg_{\partial} d$$

*for all  $d \in \mathcal{D}(R, W)$ . Therefore,  $\deg_{\partial} a = 0$  and  $a \in \mathbb{k}(t)$ . But :*

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, W)) \star 1 &= a\mathcal{D}(R, W) \star 1 \\ &= aW \end{aligned}$$

*thus  $aW \subseteq R$  and  $a \in R$  because  $RW = R$ . Since  $\sigma(t) = t$ , we have :*

$$a^{-1}\mathcal{D}(R, W) = \sigma^{-1}(\mathcal{D}(R, W))$$

*so  $a^{-1} \in \mathbb{k}[t]$  too. Therefore,  $a \in \mathbb{k}^*$  and*

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, W)) &= \mathcal{D}(R, W) \\ \implies p &\in S(W) \end{aligned}$$

*by the theorem 4.1, again.*

*ii) : If  $a \in \mathcal{C}(R, V)$ , then :*

$$\begin{aligned} aR &\subseteq V \\ \implies aRV &\subseteq V \\ \implies aR &\subseteq S(V) \\ \implies aR &\subseteq S(W) \end{aligned}$$

*(by i))*

$$\begin{aligned} \implies aRW &\subseteq W \\ \implies aR &\subseteq W \end{aligned}$$

*i.e.  $a \in \mathcal{C}(R, W)$ .*

*q.e.d.*

**Proposition 5.2** *Let  $I$  and  $J$  be two right ideals of  $A_1$  such that:  $\theta(I) = \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  and  $\theta(J) = \mathcal{D}(R, W)$  with  $V$  and  $W$  two p.d.i. subspaces of  $R$ . Then :*

$$H(I) \subseteq H(J) \implies I \cap k[\partial] \subseteq J \cap k[\partial].$$

*Proof :* We apply the proposition 5.1 to  $\theta(I)$  and  $\theta(J)$ . *q.e.d.*

Now, we deduce the following for the characteristic elements of p.d. subspaces of  $R$  :

**Corollary 5.3** *Let  $V$  and  $W$  be two p.d.i. subspaces of  $R$  such that  $H(V) \subseteq H(W)$ .*

*If  $e_V^* \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)^*$  and  $f_V \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  are the characteristic elements of  $V$  and  $e_W^* \in \mathcal{D}(R, W)^*$ ,  $f_W \in \mathcal{D}(R, W)$  are those of  $W$ , then :*

$$e_V^* f_V \in e_W^* f_W k[\partial].$$

*Proof :*

We have  $H(\mathcal{D}(R, V)) = H(e_V^* \mathcal{D}(R, V))$  and  $H(\mathcal{D}(R, W)) = H(e_W^* \mathcal{D}(R, W))$ , so we have the inclusion:

$$H(e_V^* \mathcal{D}(R, V)) \subseteq H(e_W^* \mathcal{D}(R, W)).$$

Now, we can show that  $e_V^*$  is the unique element in  $Q_1$  (modulo  $k^*$ ) such that :

$$\theta(e_V^* \mathcal{D}(R, V)) = \mathcal{D}(R, V')$$

for some p.d.i. subspace  $V'$  of  $R$ .

By the proposition 5.2 above, we have :

$$e_V^* \mathcal{D}(R, V) \cap k[\partial] \subseteq e_W^* \mathcal{D}(R, W) \cap k[\partial].$$

Since we have  $e_V^* \mathcal{D}(R, V) \cap k[\partial] = e_V^* f_V k[\partial]$  and  $e_W^* \mathcal{D}(R, W) \cap k[\partial] = e_W^* f_W k[\partial]$ , we obtain :

$$e_V^* f_V \in e_W^* f_W k[\partial].$$

*q.e.d.*

Now we are ready to prove the main proposition.

We will say that a p.d. subspace of  $R$  is *monomial* if it can be generated by monomials.

**Proposition 5.4** *Let  $V \subset R$  be a proper p.d.i. subspace of  $R$  such that  $H(\mathbb{k}[X_n]) \subseteq H(V)$ . Then :*

- i)  $V$  is monomial ;*
- ii)  $\mathcal{C}(R, V) = t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$  ;*
- iii)  $V = \mathbb{k}[X_n]$ .*

*Proof :*

*If  $n = 1$ , clearly  $V$  would be equal to  $R$ , contrary to our hypothesis. So let  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $e^* \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)^*$  and  $f \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  be the characteristic elements of  $V$ .*

*i) We have  $\mathbb{k}[X_n] = \mathbb{k} + t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$ ,  $\mathcal{C}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n]) = t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$  and  $t^n \mathbb{k}[t] \subseteq \mathcal{C}(R, V)$ . In particular,  $t^n \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  and as  $e^* \in \mathcal{D}(R, V)^*$ , we have :*

$$e^*, f \in \mathbb{k}[t, t^{-1}, \partial] .$$

*So, we can use the standard form to describe  $e^*$  and  $f$  :*

$$e^* = t^p a_p(t\partial) + \dots + t^q a_q(t\partial)$$

$$f = t^r b_r(t\partial) + \dots + t^s b_s(t\partial)$$

*for some integers  $p \leq q$  and  $r \leq s$  and some polynomials  $a_i(T), b_j(T) \in \mathbb{k}[T]$ .*

*The characteristic elements of  $\mathbb{k}[X_n]$  are :*

$$e_n^* := t^{-n}(t\partial), f_n := (t\partial - 1) \dots (t\partial - (n - 1))$$

*and :*

$$e_n^* f_n = \partial^n .$$

*According to the corollary 5.3, we have :*

$$e_n^* f_n \in e^* f \mathbb{k}[\partial]$$

*and so*

$$e^* f = \partial^l$$

*for some integer  $0 \leq l \leq n$ . That forces  $p = q$  and  $r = s$ . Therefore  $V = f(R)$  is spanned by its monomial terms  $t^{p+i} f_p(i)$ ,  $i \geq 0$ , and is monomial.*

*In fact,  $1 \leq l \leq n$ . Otherwise :*

$$e^* f = 1 \Rightarrow e^* \in \mathbb{k}(t)$$

and :

$$\begin{aligned}
e^*V &= e^*\mathcal{D}(R, V) \star 1 \subseteq R \\
&\Rightarrow e^*R = e^*RV \subseteq R \\
&\Rightarrow e^* \in \mathbb{k}[t] \\
&\Rightarrow e^* = f = 1 \\
&\Rightarrow V = R
\end{aligned}$$

which is impossible.

\*

ii) As  $V$  is monomial and irreducible,  $1 \in V$  and so  $\mathbb{k}[X_n] \subseteq V$ .

Suppose  $t^{n-1} \in V$  and let us consider the automorphism  $\sigma := \exp(\text{ad}(t^{n-1}))$ . Clearly  $t^{n-1}$  would belong to  $S(V)$  since  $V$  is monomial and  $t^n k[t] \subseteq V$ . Then we would have  $\sigma \in H(V)$ . By applying  $\sigma$  to  $H(\mathbb{k}[X_n])$ , we get a new inclusion:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma H(\mathbb{k}[X_n])\sigma^{-1} &\subseteq \sigma H(V)\sigma^{-1} \\
&\iff H(\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n]))) \subseteq H(V) .
\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

But for all  $d \in A_1$ , for all  $j \geq 0$  :

$$\underbrace{[\dots [d, t^{n-1}], t^{n-1}], \dots, t^{n-1}}_j = dt^{(n-1)j} - jt^{n-1}dt^{(n-1)(j-1)} \pmod{t^n A_1} .$$

So, for all  $d \in A_1$ , for all  $r \in R$  :

$$\sigma(d)(r) = \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{d(t^{(n-1)j}r)}{j!} - \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{t^{n-1}d(t^{(n-1)(j-1)}r)}{(j-1)!} \pmod{t^n \mathbb{k}[t]}$$

(those are in fact finite sums because  $d(t^{(n-1)j}r) \in t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$  for  $j \gg 0$ ).

Thus for all  $d \in \mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])$ , for all  $r \in R$ , we get :

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma(d)(r) &= (1 - t^{n-1}) \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{d(t^{(n-1)j}r)}{j!} \pmod{t^n \mathbb{k}[t]} \\
&\in (1 - t^{n-1})\mathbb{k}[X_n] + t^n \mathbb{k}[t] = \mathbb{k}(1 - t^{n-1}) + t^n \mathbb{k}[t] .
\end{aligned}$$

Let  $U_n := \mathbb{k}(1 - t^{n-1}) + t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$ . We have just proved :

$$\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R, U_n) .$$

In the same way, we can prove :

$$\sigma^{-1}(\mathcal{D}(R, U_n)) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n]) .$$

Therefore, we have exactly :

$$\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])) = \mathcal{D}(R, U_n) .$$

Now, the characteristic elements of  $U_n$  are :

$$e_{U_n}^* := \partial^{n-2} t^{-n} (t\partial) + (-1)^n (n-1)! t^{1-n} \in \mathcal{D}(U_n, R)$$

$$f_{U_n} = (t\partial - 1) \dots (t\partial - (n-1)) + (-1)^n (n-1)! t^{n-1} \in \mathcal{D}(R, U_n) .$$

We have :

$$e_{U_n}^* f_{U_n} = \left( \partial^{n-1} + (-1)^n (n-1)! \right)^2$$

hence :

$$e_{U_n}^* f_{U_n} \notin \partial^l \mathbb{k}[\partial] = e^* f \mathbb{k}[\partial] .$$

By the corollary 5.3, we deduce :

$$H(\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n]))) = H(U_n) \not\subseteq H(V)$$

contrary to (1).

So  $t^{n-1} \notin V$  and we have exactly :

$$\mathcal{C}(R, V) = t^n \mathbb{k}[t] .$$

\*

**iii)** Now,  $\mathcal{C}(R, V) = t^n k[t]$ , and  $t^{n-1} \notin V$  . For  $n = 2$ , we have already  $V = \mathbb{k}[X_2]$ . So we will suppose  $n \geq 3$ .

Let  $1 \leq n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_s < n-1$  be the integers such that  $t^{n_i} \notin V$  . We will show that  $s = n-2$  and thus  $V = \mathbb{k}[X_n]$ .

We use again the automorphism  $\sigma = \exp(\text{ad}(t^{n-1}))$ . We find :

$$\sigma(\mathcal{D}(R, V)) = \mathcal{D}(R, V_\sigma)$$

where  $V_\sigma := \mathbb{k}(1 - t^{n-1}) + V \cap t\mathbb{k}[t]$ . We set :

$$h(T) := (T - n_1) \dots (T - n_s)$$

and

$$\lambda := (n-1)! \frac{h(0)}{h(n-1)}.$$

We check that the element

$$g_\sigma := h(t\partial)(t\partial - (n-1))\partial^{n-2} + \lambda th(t\partial + 1)$$

is an element of  $\mathcal{D}(R, V_\sigma)$ . We see that

$$\deg_t(g_\sigma) = s + 1$$

$$= \dim_{\mathbb{k}} R/V_\sigma$$

(for example because of the short exact sequence :

$$0 \rightarrow V_\sigma/(t\mathbb{k}[t] \cap V) \rightarrow R/(V \cap t\mathbb{k}[t]) \rightarrow R/V_\sigma \rightarrow 0).$$

So  $g_\sigma$  has minimum  $t$ -degree. The element  $g_\sigma$  can be expanded as :

$$g_\sigma = t^{s+1}(\partial^{n-1} + \lambda)\partial^s + t^s b_s(\partial) + \dots + t b_1(\partial) - (n-1)h(0)\partial^{n-2}$$

for some polynomials  $b_i(T) \in \mathbb{k}[T]$ .

Since  $\lambda \neq 0$ , the highest common factor of

$$(\partial^{n-1} + \lambda)\partial^s, b_s(\partial), \dots, b_1(\partial), \partial^{n-2}$$

must be some  $\partial^r$  where  $0 \leq r \leq s$ . So if  $e_\sigma^*, f_\sigma$  are the characteristic elements of  $V_\sigma$ , we have  $g_\sigma = f_\sigma \partial^r$ . Thus  $f_\sigma$  must be equal to :

$$t^{s+1}(\partial^{n-1} + \lambda)\partial^{s-r} + t^s a_s(\partial) + \dots + t a_1(\partial) - (n-1)h(0)\partial^{n-2-r}$$

where  $a_i(\partial) := b_i(\partial)\partial^{-r} \in \mathbb{k}[\partial]$ .

But :

$$\begin{aligned} H(\mathbb{k}[X_n]) &\subseteq H(V) \\ \implies \sigma H(\mathbb{k}[X_n])\sigma^{-1} &\subseteq \sigma H(V)\sigma^{-1} \\ \implies H(U_n) &\subseteq H(V_\sigma) \\ \implies e_{U_n}^* f_{U_n} &\in e_\sigma^* f_\sigma \mathbb{k}[\partial] \end{aligned}$$

by the corollary 5.3. Now, by the proposition 3.5.iii),

$$e_\sigma^* f_\sigma \in (\partial^{n-1} + \lambda)\partial^{s-r} \mathbb{k}[\partial].$$



As a consequence :

$$\left(\partial^{n-1} + (-1)^n(n-1)!\right)^2 \in (\partial^{n-1} + \lambda)\partial^{s-r}\mathbb{k}[\partial]$$

which implies that  $s = r$  and  $\lambda = (-1)^n(n-1)!^2$ .

Since  $s = r$ , we have :

$$g_\sigma = f_\sigma \partial^s$$

and :

$$g_\sigma(t^i) = 0$$

for all  $0 \leq i \leq s-1$ . Thus  $h(i+1) = 0$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, s-1$ . But  $n_1, \dots, n_s$  are the only roots of  $h$  so :

$$\forall 0 \leq j \leq s, n_j = j .$$

From the equality  $\lambda = (-1)^n(n-1)!$  we then deduce:

$$\frac{(-1)^s n_1 \dots n_s}{(n-2) \dots (n-1-s)} = (-1)^n$$

$$\iff \frac{s!(n-2-s)!}{(n-2)!} = (-1)^{n+s}$$

$$\iff \binom{n-2}{s} = (-1)^{n+s}$$

$$\iff s = 0 \text{ and } n \text{ is even or } s = n-2 .$$

If  $s = n-2$ , then  $V = \mathbb{k}[X_n]$  and the proof is finished. If  $s = 0$  and  $n$  is even, then :

$$V = \mathbb{k} + \mathbb{k}t + \dots + \mathbb{k}t^{n-2} + t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$$

with  $n \geq 4$ .

We set  $\sigma := \exp(\text{ad}(t^{n-2}))$ . Then we have :

$$H(\mathbb{k}[X_n]) \subseteq H(V)$$

$$\iff \sigma H(\mathbb{k}[X_n]) \sigma^{-1} \subseteq \sigma H(V) \sigma^{-1}$$

$$\iff H(W_n) \subseteq H(V_\sigma)$$

where :

$$W_n = (1 - t^{n-2})\mathbb{k}[X_n] + t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$$

$$= \mathbb{k}(1 - t^{n-2}) + t^n \mathbb{k}[t]$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} V_\sigma &= (1 - t^{n-2})V + t^n \mathbb{k}[t] \\ &= \mathbb{k} + \mathbb{k}(t - t^{n-1}) + \mathbb{k}t^2 + \dots + \mathbb{k}t^{n-2} + t^n \mathbb{k}[t] . \end{aligned}$$

Now, let  $e_{W_n}^*, f_{W_n}$  be the characteristic elements of  $W_n$  and  $e_\sigma^*, f_\sigma$  those of  $V_\sigma$ . Because of the corollary 5.3, we should have :

$$e_{W_n}^* f_{W_n} \in e_\sigma^* f_\sigma \mathbb{k}[\partial] . \quad (2)$$

But we can check that :

$$\begin{aligned} e_{W_n}^* &= \left( \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} + (-1)^{n-1} \partial \right) t^{1-n} + \left( \frac{\partial^{n-2}}{(n-2)!} + (-1)^{n-1} \right) t^{-n} , \\ f_{W_n} &= \frac{(t\partial - 1) \dots (t\partial - (n-1))}{(n-1)!} + (-1)^{n-1} t^{n-2} (t\partial - 1) , \\ f_\sigma &= t \left( \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} + \partial \right) - \frac{\partial^{n-2}}{(n-2)!} - 1 . \end{aligned}$$

We deduce that :

$$\begin{aligned} e_{W_n}^* f_{W_n} &= \left( \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} + (-1)^{n-1} \partial \right)^2 \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} - \partial \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

because  $n$  is even and :

$$e_\sigma^* f_\sigma \mathbb{k}[\partial] \subseteq \left( \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} + \partial \right) \mathbb{k}[\partial]$$

which contradicts (2).

Hence  $V = \mathbb{k}[X_n]$ .

*q.e.d.*

Using the description of right ideals of  $A_1$  in [3], we deduce the following :

**Corollary 5.5** *For any non principal right ideals  $I$  and  $J$ , the following equivalences are satisfied:*

$$\begin{aligned} H(I) &\subset H(J) \\ \iff H(I) &= H(J) \\ \iff \exists x \in \text{Frac}(A_1), \exists \sigma \in \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1), & I = x\sigma(J) . \end{aligned}$$

We now obtain the announced result.

**Proposition 5.6** *Let  $I$  be any right ideal of  $A_1$ . The subgroup  $H(I)$  is equal to its own normalizer subgroup in  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{k}}(A_1)$ .*

*Proof :* By [3], we can suppose  $I = \mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])$ . Let  $\gamma \in \text{Aut}(A_1)$  such that

$$\gamma H(\mathbb{k}[X_n]) \gamma^{-1} = H(\mathbb{k}[X_n]) .$$

Then we have

$$H(\gamma(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n]))) = H(\mathbb{k}[X_n]) .$$

We have also :  $\gamma(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])) \simeq \mathcal{D}(R, V)$  for some p.d.i. subspace  $V$  of  $R$ .

Thus, we get  $H(\mathbb{k}[X_n]) = H(V)$ , so  $V = \mathbb{k}[X_n]$  by the proposition 5.4. Finally, we have  $\gamma(\mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])) \simeq \mathcal{D}(R, \mathbb{k}[X_n])$  and that means  $\gamma \in H(I)$ .  
q.e.d.

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